

# GREAT WEALTH IN EARTH NEAR PEGOS AND IN TOYAH VALLEY

## ARTESIAN WATER NEAR SURFACE AT PEGOS

Natural Flow of Water in Toyah Valley Makes the Place a Garden of Eden.

Giffin Pear Orchard Ships \$4000 Worth of Pears to El Paso in a Year.

Pecos, Tex., Aug. 27.—Pecos and surrounding country paid \$100,000 for a railroad 40 miles long, but Pecos is going to get back the principal with heavy interest. The people of this wide awake town put up this sum as a bonus to secure the building of the Pecos and Toyah Valley Southern railroad, which is opening up one of the richest regions in the west.

The road is now completed to the town of Saragosa, 20-odd miles southwest of here, and in a few months, Balmorhea will be reached, 40 miles away. This will pour the wealth of the upper Toyah valley into the lap of this town and besides, bring Pecos into touch with and make it the market for a region of country yet undeveloped between here and Balmorhea.

The soil through the new region is rich and productive. Experiments have been tried. All the soil lacks is water. Given water, there is nothing within the season's limitations, that it will not produce. In the Toyah valley, where they have water, where 14,000 acres of rich land is under or can be put under irrigation, the most bountiful crops are grown. The same between here and there, when there is water. Fruit that breaks the limbs of the trees; grapes that make it necessary to pluck some of them before maturity to save the vines, alfalfa that yields seven cuttings a year with over a ton to the cutting, at \$12 a ton on the ground, prove what the upper Toyah valley can produce.

Results just as good on small areas have been obtained on the tableland between here and Balmorhea, as well as west of here towards Carlsbad. These results have been obtained from well irrigation.

Pumping has been found to be profitable, but throughout the region traversed by the new road, artesian water has been secured where wells have been sunk for it. And a hundred feet has been the limit so far. Mrs. Bettie White has two wells four miles from town at a depth of 30 feet, and Prof. W. C. Welborn has one at the same depth about 20 miles from town.

With springs in evidence in the lowlands, there is no reason why there should not be artesian water along the entire strip of country bordering on the new road, the people here all say. Even if there is not artesian water over the whole region, there is a sufficiency of surface water that has been proved. Wells and windmills dot the entire country and show that the water is there. In many cases farmers have installed gasoline engines and are growing fine young orchards with pump irrigation. They are going to extend their work and plant fields of alfalfa, corn and beans. They have proved that these things will grow and they are going to try it. New men are coming in daily and buying up this land and preparing to sink new wells.

**A Priest's Efforts.**  
Father Hobeln of the Scandinavian church of America, has secured an option on a large area for colonizing members of his church. Not to disappoint them, he has put down a well and erected a gasoline pump upon it. He has already put in a patch of corn for a trial. He is going to conduct experiments before bringing his people into the new country, but he is already satisfied that he is on the right track; that he has found the new Eden.

Prof. Welborn and associates, having secured a favorable test well, are preparing to sink more and to put in an irrigation system and sell off the land to settlers. Prof. Welborn is from the Texas A. & M. college and knows

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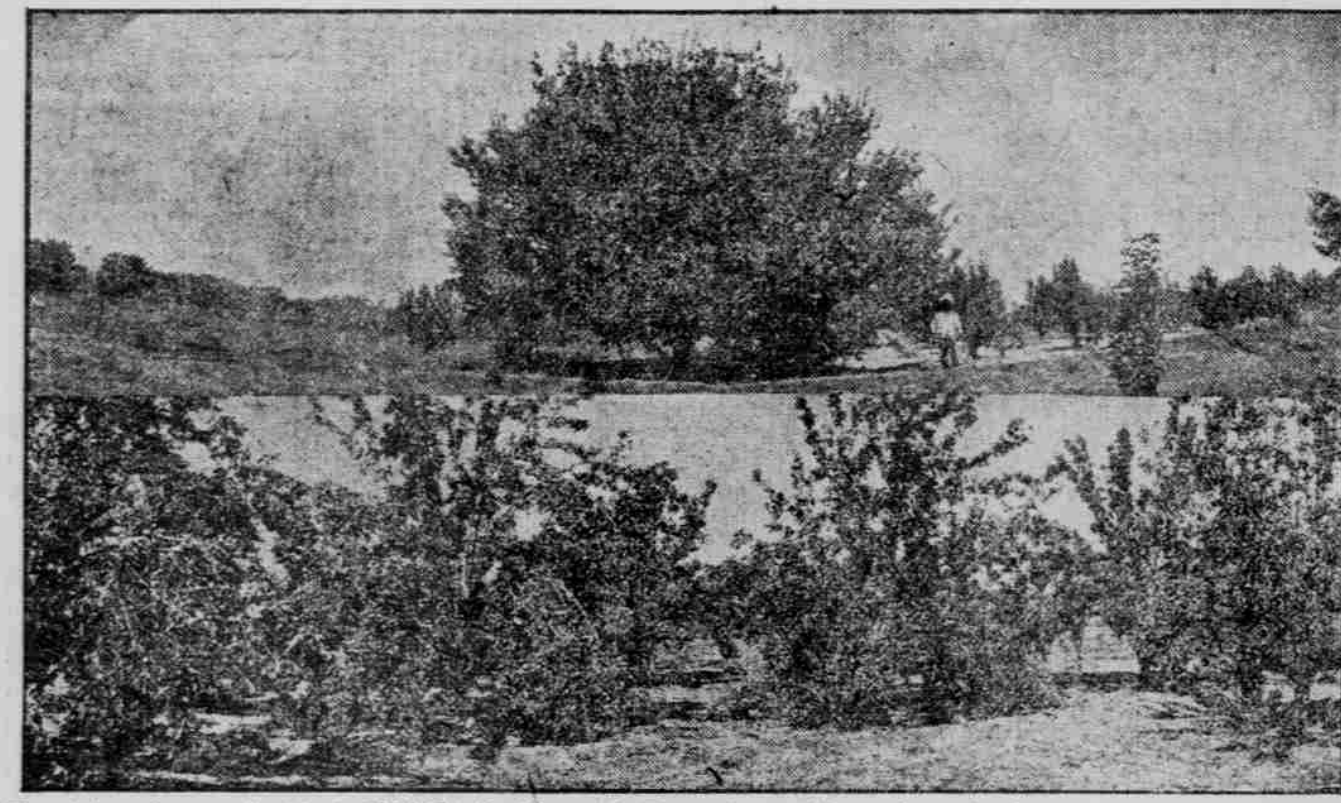
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## The Famous Giffin Orchard Near Balmorhea



Top picture shows apricot tree, said to be the biggest in Texas; lower picture shows the famous Giffin pear orchards, the limbs of the trees breaking from the weight of the young fruit. These photos were taken in August by a Herald staff man.

how to do it. He is jubilant at his success thus far and believes that he will be able to help people the Pecos region with hundreds of thrifty farmer families who will help to make the new country what he thinks it ought to be.

**A Health Resort.**  
The railroad company which is building the new line into Balmorhea is preparing to advertise the region extensively. The Gould railroads have promised to advertise the country and back a great hotel for a tourist resort. The water is not only a wonderful life giver to the soil, but it is rich in mineral properties. While palatable to the taste, it is heavily impregnated with sulphur and is said to be equally valuable for human life as it is for producing growth in plants.

The Davis mountains, a little east of the Toyah valley and hemming in that beautiful little paradise spot, are rich in wonderful scenery and valuable for their health giving atmosphere. They also abound in game. Another hotel in the mountains is planned by the Gould lines.

The Toyah valley is already so rich in its production that eastern capitalists are erecting a mammoth alfalfa meal mill and they have contracts for the output sold two years ahead of time. With the new road to Balmorhea they can save three dollars a ton on shipments; the new road will put all these things at the very door of Pecos and will help to make it one of the greatest, if not the greatest town on the plains of this western Texas.

**In Famous Toyah Valley.**  
C. W. and Eugene Swenson, two young men from Chicago, are the masters of the situation in the Toyah valley. They have purchased all the available land, including the water rights, in the upper Toyah valley, and are now selling homes to eastern farmers who are tired of crop failures and droughts. They are bringing in excursions every two weeks and each excursion finds many farmers staying, to build homes for themselves and their families. The Swenson brothers are able to show the results that have already been accomplished and that is their sole argument. Purchases follow at once. The lands, 14,000 acres of them, are irrigated from a mammoth spring at the head of the valley, and the water is carried throughout the valley in canals. Beautifully clear, with waving green on the banks, and the rippling waters glistening like diamonds in the sunlight under a clear sky, or singing their lullabies beneath some stately fruit or shade tree, the water makes the Toyah valley the most valuable adjunct to the future prosperity of Pecos, indeed, a veritable oasis.

**Town Grows Fast.**  
The town of Balmorhea has sprung up as if in a night, yet it is substantial. The valley is already dotted with many houses and the stores in the new town carry a complete line of everything—drugs, groceries, dry goods, clothing, lumber—the new town has two lumber yards, both active—and everything the settler needs or wants. Doctors, watchmakers and blacksmiths have already located there. But there is no wonder. The alfalfa crop already amounts to many cars a year and the fruit shipments are heavy.

**Giffins Noted Orchard.**  
C. W. Giffin, who located there just 18 years ago, shipped almost \$4000 worth of pears to D. M. Payne of El Paso, season before last, and pears are only one of his many products. He rides in an automobile and takes life easy. He lives in a comfortable adobe and stone house, in the forks of two irrigation ditches, the banks covered with delicate weeping willows and stately cottonwoods, and his orchards give him amusement and profit at one and the same time. Apricots—he has the biggest apricot tree in the state—peaches, pears—the pears were breaking the limbs from the trees a few days ago and he had already picked the young fruit twice—plums, crab apples, grapes, apples, quinces, blackberries, figs, cherries, and other numerous and valuable fruits grow in profusion. Great luscious peaches, pears as big as two fists, cherries as sweet as sugar, blackberries as soft and sweet as a breath of morning air, grapes as fine as any that California ever produced, grow almost without care.

**Some Fruit Profits.**  
Eugene Swenson figures out the profit from one variety of Mr. Giffin's grapes. They produced 800 pounds to the vine, calculating from the number of vines to the acre, he figures that there is a gross income of \$900 an acre. With alfalfa bringing \$12 a ton and seven cuttings to the year, totaling about eight tons to the season, he naturally had no trouble figuring an income of \$108 an acre. Water rights cost nothing, for he owns part of the big spring that waters the whole valley, some 15 miles in length. Mr. Giffin has

made his orchard pay as high as \$1087 an acre.

In addition to this big spring, the irrigation company is preparing to buy what is known as Phantom spring, a mysterious cavern in the mountainside, where springs bubble up and then disappear again in the ground, after forming a lake several hundred feet in area. An effort will be made to draw off this water instead of allowing it to sink back into the earth. Then a dam is to be built across a series of draws that have their confluence in the upper end of the valley and catch enough rain and snow from a 35-mile watershed on one side of the Davis mountains to irrigate another large acreage. All this water will be turned upon the lands in the valley to make them bloom; to make the town of Balmorhea grow, and to make Pecos a greater Pecos.

**On the Plains.**  
Meanwhile, the people on the plains country covering the 40 miles between Pecos and this valley paradise, are preparing to develop their land with artesian and shallow wells. The country is beautifully level, covered largely by a small growth of brush, bright and green even in the heat of summer, showing that the soil is even moist without irrigation. There is no region in the southwest that has greater promise than that surrounding Pecos. This is proved by the fact that the state of Texas selected this as a location for its experiment station, at which it will test the plants that are likely to grow and thrive here, work out the problem of water consumption, evaporation and cost, and help the people to work out their own salvation in a region that is most promising.

Because of the development of water by pumping from this shallow water, which underlies over 100,000 acres tributary to Pecos City, lands which one year ago were slow to sell at \$10 per acre are now being sought by home-seeker and investor at \$40 to \$50 per acre. Sufficient work has been done by those having the development work in charge to prove the cost of producing the water and the cost of delivering it to be about the same as that under a gravity system.

**Plenty of Water.**  
With water in great quantities—the strata of gravel bearing water averaging 20 feet deep—found at an average depth of 140 feet, and which rises to within 10 to 20 feet of the surface, the first cost and fixed charge for delivery are reduced to a minimum.

Men who have had experience in this sort of development are quick to appreciate the opportunities, and as a result there is great activity along this line. Almost daily are seen pumping plants or casing for wells being taken to the ranches, which, with the proper development of water, will at once become attractive to the man seeking a home.

Prof. Welborn, formerly of the A. & M. college, is entitled to great credit for the impetus given this work. He has had years of practical experience in well construction and operation, and his demonstration of first cost and operation expense have done much to attract the attention of the local land owners.

**Cheap Pumping.**  
In a well recently tested, sufficient water was lifted to irrigate 220 acres with a six-inch centrifugal pump and a 15-horse power gasoline engine. This well was 135 feet deep and the total cost of the well was \$275. Add to this the cost of the pumping plant, engine, pump, etc., which will be about \$310, and you have a total cost of \$1285, or \$4 per acre for your water rights.

With a system of this sort the irrigator becomes entirely independent of the canal company, and free from the friction which so often accompanies the dealings between the water user and the

company. There are some of the reasons so much attention is attracted to the pumping propositions, and upon the proper development and installation of which Pecos City and surrounding country attach the claim of soon becoming the greatest irrigation section in the great southwest.

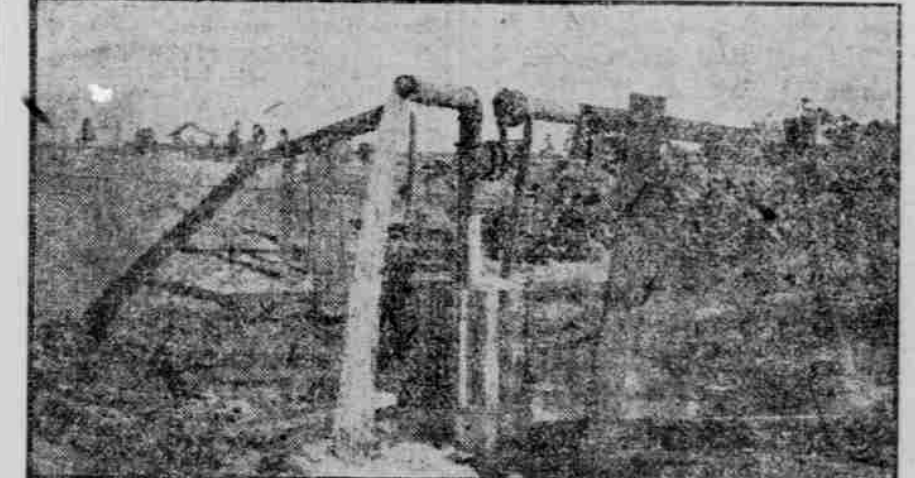
**Discovery of Toyah Valley.**  
The Toyah valley has been known to the old settlers for many years. That the soil is splendid throughout this

## One Of the Numerous Flowing Wells In Vicinity Of Pecos



This well is on the farm of Mrs. Bettie White and the water was struck at a depth of 30 feet at a cost of \$150. The man in the cut is Sam White, a Pecos real estate man.

## One Of Toyah's Famous Sulphur Artesian Wells



There appears to be a peculiarly valuable property in the artesian water in the vicinity of Toyah, for the waters from the wells thereabouts appear to produce the finest fruits and vegetables in any of the entire southwest where used in irrigation. T. E. Giffins has one of the show places in the vicinity of Toyah. The above cut is from a plot of his well irrigated corn patch, an onion field and two potato patches. The water is shown pouring from the pipe. There are several other wells in the vicinity which are used for irrigation and they all produce the finest of results.

W. A. Kling, roadmaster for the T. & P. at Toyah, has a patch of alfalfa that produces nine tons to the acre in a season. It is irrigated with sulphur artesian water. There are several orchards in the town that have no superior and few equals anywhere; all have been irrigated with Toyah sulphur artesian water. It is stated that this water, when run into a garden in winter time, prevents the frost damaging the plants.

## Bathing In Main Irrigation Canal At Balmorhea



Swenson Land Co. Balmorhea Tex. 7-23-10

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## SOCIETY WEDDING AT NEWPORT SOON

Newport, R. I., Aug. 27.—Miss Edith Deacon's marriage to George Le Peabody next month will be one of the so-



ciety events of Newport. Mrs. Charles M. Baldwin, the grandmother of Miss Deacon, is making all the arrangements for the ceremony. She is regarded as one whose taste and qualifications fit her for preparing for the function more than any one else interested in the bride. Mr. Peabody is still at the Beverly hospital, having been overcome with the heat while playing a marathon tennis match with his fiancée last month.

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